

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS, et al.

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Appl. No. Div of Serial No.  
09/899,082

Group: Unassigned

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Examiner: Unassigned

For: PROCESS FOR TYPING OF HCV ISOLATES

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April 13, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Preliminarily amend the above-identified application as follows.